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PP RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHDE RUEHDIR RUEHKUK RUEHLH
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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3474
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 5677
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 0111
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3920
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 ASHGABAT 001182
SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/IR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/16/2019
TAGS: [IR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TX](#) [UNESCO](#)
SUBJECT: IRAN: WHERE TO GO FROM HERE? XXXXXXXXXXXX DIPLOMAT SHARES HIS PERSPECTIVE
ASHGABAT 00001182 001.2 OF 003

Classified By: Acting DCM Peter Eckstrom, Reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

- [1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: XXXXXXXXXXXX's advised in a recent conversation with Ashgabat Iran Watcher that the U.S. would be ill-advised to begin talks with
A TRIANGULAR BASE OF SUPPORT
- [1](#)2. (C) In a XXXXXXXXXXXX conversation with Iran Watcher, XXXXXXXXXXXX described his country's present political climate, stating that "nothing
[1](#)3. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX compared the regime to the dictatorships of Hitler and Mussolini, and said the only difference was that Iran, unlike Nazi
ENGAGEMENT?...NOT WITH THIS GOVERNMENT
- [1](#)4. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX was adamant that for the U.S. to enter into direct talks with Iran's leadership would be a mistake. Not only, he insisted,
THIS IS NOT 1980
- [1](#)5. (C) He said Iran is no longer the country or society that rallied around the war effort when Iraq invaded them in 1980. On the contrary, he
ASHGABAT 00001182 002.2 OF 003 THE EDUCATION SYSTEM: A TOTAL MESS
- [1](#)6. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX estimated that if one counts both teachers and educators, about a third of the country is part of the education system. He
DETAINEES RELEASED AFTER PAYMENTS OF CASH
- [1](#)7. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX said that people detained following the June election have had to pay large sums to be released. He described the parents
AHMADINEJAD OR MOUSAVI: SHADES OF GRAY
- [1](#)8. (C) In XXXXXXXXXXXX's view, the recent presidential election presented no real choice to the Iranian public, just the "facade" of one, bec
THE ANSWER?...STOP THE FLOW OF CASH
- [1](#)9. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX sees the sanctions regime as ineffective. The infusion of cash from abroad is keeping the Iranian regime afloat 30 years a
[1](#)10. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX
- [1](#)11. (C) BIO NOTE AND COMMENT: XXXXXXXXXXXX
- [1](#)12. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXX does nothing to hide his disdain for Iran's theocracy. In his view, it is a regime that is fundamentally flawed and ince
CURRAN